Repeat test in one month

Post-vasectomy testing

This flowchart is adapted from the Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures—Surgical (ASERNIP-S), Report No. 39, Post-vasectomy testing to confirm sterility.

Vasectomy

Single test at 3 months and after at least 20 ejaculations

~ 80% of patients

~ 20% of patients

Negative
No further testing required

Positive
Further testing required

Non-motile sperm
Monthly testing required

Motile sperm
Probable vasectomy failure

Repeat test in one month

Non-motile sperm
Monthly testing required

Motile sperm
Vasectomy failure confirmed

Negative
No further testing required

Repeat test in one month

Negative
No further testing required

Positive
“Special clearance” if: two consecutive tests show no motile sperm, and concentration of non-motile sperm <100,000/mL, and at least 7 months post-vasectomy.

1 The proposal of monthly testing after a positive sample is not evidence-based. It is an arbitrary time period chosen to potentially allow enough time and ejaculations to clear the vas deferens of any remaining sperm.

2 The prerequisites for special clearance in this proposal are based on those in the British Andrology Society guidelines for post-vasectomy semen analysis.